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Letter dated 28 March 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the thirtieth monthly report of the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). The present letter covers the period from 23 February to 23 March 2016.

With respect to the destruction of the chemical weapons production facilities, one hangar has yet to be destroyed, as the prevailing security situation prevents access to this hangar. The OPCW Technical Secretariat also remains unable to confirm the condition of two other stationary above-ground facilities owing to the security situation.

The OPCW Declaration Assessment Team has undertaken 15 visits to the Syrian Arab Republic. I take note of the reference by the Director General to the decision of 23 March 2016 of the OPCW Executive Council, in which it requested the Director General to engage officials of the Syrian Arab Republic on this matter and urged the Team to continue its efforts, on an expedited basis, to verify the declaration and related submissions.

I likewise take note of the concern expressed by the OPCW Executive Council about the inability of the Declaration Assessment Team to fully verify the declaration and related submissions of the Syrian Arab Republic as accurate and complete. In view of the request of the Executive Council that the Director General inform it of the outcome of his engagement with Syrian officials in advance of its eighty-second session, I reiterate the importance of continuing cooperation between the Syrian authorities and OPCW.

The OPCW fact-finding mission in the Syrian Arab Republic has completed its latest mission. The result of this work is an addendum to the report of the OPCW fact-finding mission in the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the incidents described in the communications from the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates and Head of the National Authority of the Syrian Arab Republic. That report concluded that there was a high degree of probability that some of those involved in an alleged incident in Darayya on 15 February 2015 had at some point been exposed to sarin or a sarin-like substance. However, the report could not confidently link the blood sample analyses to that particular incident or determine how, when or under what circumstances the exposure occurred. The addendum is attached herewith and states that no new information has come to light that would necessitate a change to the conclusion of the above-referenced report (see annex).

Please recycle

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2235 (2015), the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism started the in-depth investigation of its nine selected cases on 1 March 2016. Three multidisciplinary teams have been established to investigate three cases each. To expedite the work of the Mechanism, the trust fund has been used to recruit three consultants with specialized skills and expertise, including in the areas of policing and investigation, military analysis, chemistry and histology. During the reporting period, the Leadership Panel travelled to Jordan and Turkey, while its investigators were in Damascus for meetings with relevant government officials.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

Annex

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

I have the honour to transmit to you my report entitled "Progress in the Elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme" prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of the OPCW Executive Council Decision EC-M-33/DEC.1, and the United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), both dated 27 September 2013, for transmission to the Security Council (see enclosure). My report covers the period from 23 February 2016 to 23 March 2016 and also covers the reporting requirements of the Executive Council decision EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013. Please also find attached the addendum of the Fact-Finding Mission Bravo Report (see appendix).

(*Signed*) Ahmet Üzümcü

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

Note by the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

1. In accordance with subparagraph 2(f) of the decision by the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") at its Thirty-Third Meeting (EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013), the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") is to report to the Council on a monthly basis regarding the implementation of that decision. In accordance with paragraph 12 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), the report by the Secretariat is also to be submitted to the Security Council through the Secretary-General.

2. The Council, at its Thirty-Fourth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled "Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons and Syrian Chemical Weapons Production Facilities" (EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013). In paragraph 22 of that decision, the Council decided that the Secretariat should report on its implementation "in conjunction with its reporting required by subparagraph 2(f) of Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1".

3. The Council, at its Forty-Eighth Meeting, also adopted a decision entitled "Reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria" (EC-M-48/DEC.1, dated 4 February 2015).

4. This, the thirtieth monthly report, is therefore submitted in accordance with the aforementioned Council decisions, and includes information relevant to the period from 23 February to 23 March 2016.

Progress achieved by the Syrian Arab Republic in meeting the requirements of EC-M-33/DEC.1 and EC-M-34/DEC.1

5. Progress by the Syrian Arab Republic is as follows:

   (a) As reported previously, significant progress has been made with the 27 chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) declared by the Syrian Arab Republic. The Secretariat has verified the destruction of 24, and three remain to be verified as destroyed. In particular, the security situation continues to prevent safe access to destroy one aircraft hangar, and to confirm the condition of two stationary above-ground facilities.

   (b) On 16 March 2016, the Syrian Arab Republic submitted to the Council its twenty-eighth monthly report (EC-82/P/NAT.1, dated 17 March 2016) regarding activities on its territory related to the destruction of its CWPFs, as required by paragraph 19 of EC-M-34/DEC.1.

   (c) The Syrian authorities have continued to extend the necessary cooperation in accordance with the implementation of subparagraph 1(e) of EC-M-33/DEC.1 and paragraph 7 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013).

Progress in the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons by States Parties hosting destruction activities

6. As reported previously, all the chemicals declared by the Syrian Arab Republic that were removed from its territory in 2014 have now been destroyed.

Activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to the Syrian Arab Republic

7. A the support of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is a k enabler for the continuation of OPCW missions in the Syrian Arab Republic, in particular for the ongoing field activities of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) teams, the OPCW intends to extend its cooperation with UNOPS until the end of November. Three OPCW staff members were deployed as part of the FFM as at the cut-off date of this report.

8. The Director-General has continued to communicate with senior officials of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. As requested by the Council at its Seventy-Fifth Session (paragraph 7.12 of EC-75/2, dated 7 March 2014), the Secretariat, on behalf of the Director-General, has continued to brief States Parties in The Hague on its activities.

9. The Secretariat and the Syrian authorities have maintained their ongoing cooperation on outstanding issues regarding the Syrian initial declaration, as encouraged by the Council at its Seventy-Sixth Session (paragraph 6.17 of EC-76/6, dated 11 July 2014). The Council, at its Eighty-First Session, noted the Note by the Director-General entitled "Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team Regarding the Declaration and Related Submissions by the Syrian Arab Republic" (EC-81/HP/DG.1, dated 22 February 2016), which detailed all unresolved issues, in particular those for which no further progress can be made, despite the 15 visits to the Syrian Arab Republic undertaken by the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) over the past two years. The Council, in expressing concern that the report concluded that the Syrian Arab Republic's declaration and related submissions could not at present be fully verified as accurate and complete as required by the Chemical Weapons Convention and EC-M-33/DEC.1, adopted a decision entitled "Report by the Director-General Regarding the Declaration and Related Submissions by the Syrian Arab Republic" (EC-81/DEC.4, dated 23 March 2016). In that decision, the Council requested that the Director-General engage officials of the Syrian Arab Republic on this matter, while underscoring its importance, and also that the DAT continue its efforts, on an expedited basis, to verify the declaration and related submissions. The Council also requested that the Director-General inform it of the outcome of this engagement in advance of its Eighty-Second Session, and report to it at all future sessions any unresolved issues regarding the Syrian declaration and related submissions.

Supplementary resources

10. As previously reported, a Trust Fund for Syria Missions was established in November 2015 to support the FFM and other remaining activities, such as those of the DAT. As at the cut-off date of this report, contribution agreements totalling EUR 3.1 million had been concluded with Finland, France, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, and the European Union. Pledges from other donors have been made and are currently being processed.

Activities carried out with respect to the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria

11. The FFM completed its latest mission, which, as previously reported, focused on the discovery of sarin or a sarin-like substance in certain blood samples from individuals related to the alleged incident in Darayya. The mission sought to gain a better understanding of the circumstances under which such exposure might have occurred. In an addendum to the "Report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria Regarding the Incidents Described in the Communications from the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates and Head of the National Authority of the Syrian Arab Republic" (S/1318/2015/Rev.1/Add.1, dated 29 February 2016), which was circulated to the Council, the FFM concluded that no new information had come to light that would necessitate a change to the report's original conclusion.

12. The first report of the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM), which was issued to the United Nations Security Council on 12 February 2016 pursuant to resolution 2235 (2015), was made available to the States Parties for their information. The OPCW continues to extend its full cooperation and support to the JIM.

Conclusion

13. The main focus of the future activities of the OPCW Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic will be on the implementation of the Council's decision of 23 March 2016 (EC-81/DEC.4), as well as on the destruction and verification of the remaining aircraft hangar and confirmation of the status of the two stationary above-ground facilities.

Appendix

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

Note by the Technical Secretariat

Report of the OPCW fact-finding mission in the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the incidents described in communications from the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates and Head of the National Authority of the Syrian Arab Republic

Addendum

1. This addendum provides information further to "The Report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria Regarding the Incidents Described in Communications from the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates and Head of the National Authority of the Syrian Arab Republic" (S/1318/2015/Rev.1, dated 17 December 2015).

2. On 18 December 2015, the Director-General addressed a letter to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic enclosing a copy of report S/1318/2015/Rev.1 and drawing attention to the conclusion that:

> "there is a high degree of probability that some of those involved in the alleged incident in Darayya on 15 February 2015 were at some point exposed to sarin or a sarin-like substance. However, the FFM could not confidently link the blood sample analyses to this particular incident nor determine how, when, or under what circumstances the exposure occurred" (paragraph 4.22 of S/1318/2015/Rev.1).

3. The aforementioned letter sought further comment from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the findings of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) in relation to the incident in Darayya on 15 February 2015. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic was also requested to provide any records and/or additional information that would complement the witness testimonies and results of the blood sample analyses associated with the casualties involved in this incident. Such information would include, but was not restricted to:

   (a) further interviews with the persons involved;

   (b) photographs or video recordings of the incident that occurred in Darayya on 15 February 2015;

   (c) remnants of any ordnance, launching system, or forensic evidence retrieved from the incident location; and

   (d) environmental samples, including animal tissue, from the surroundings of the incident location, as well as background control samples.

4. A letter from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic received on 28 December 2015 welcomed a further visit by the FFM in January 2016.

5. Following this invitation, the FFM returned to Damascus from 26 to 31 January 2016. The FFM team was composed of four inspectors and two interpreters. Table 1 below provides further details of the team composition.

TABLE 1: FFM TEAM COMPOSITION

No.	Function	Speciality
1.	Steve Wallis, Team Leader	Inspector, Advanced Health and Safety Specialist
2.	Deputy Team Leader, confidentiality officer	Inspector, Chemical Weapons Munitions Specialist
3.	Interview subteam member	Inspector, Chemical Weapons Munitions Specialist
4.	Interview subteam member, evidence officer	Inspector, Analytical Chemist
5.	Interpreter	n/a
6.	Interpreter	n/a

6. During its deployment, the FFM further conducted its investigation by collecting testimonies from three casualties involved in the incident in Darayya on 15 February 2015, by reviewing documents, and by visiting the Martyr Youssef Al-Adhma Hospital in Damascus (hereinafter "H601") and the Centre for Studies and Scientific Research Institute in Barzi, Damascus.

7. The prevailing narrative, established by a review of the three interviews conducted during this deployment, by site visits, and by a review of the documents received from the Syrian Arab Republic, confirmed the narrative already described in paragraphs 3.90 to 3.92 of report S/1318/2015/Rev.1. However, no additional information was received that could corroborate the narrative and no further hard evidence was provided to the FFM during this deployment.

8. In view of the above, the FFM is of the opinion that no new information has come to light that would necessitate a change to the conclusion reached in report S/1318/2015/Rev.1. However, the FFM will review and analyse any further information or hard evidence that may be provided by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in regard to the incident in Darayya on 15 February 2015.

9. This addendum to report S/1318/2015/Rev.1 was submitted on 26 February 2016 in English.

[signed]
Steven Wallis
Mission Leader

Annex (English only):
List of other documents provided by the Syrian Arab Republic

Annex

LIST OF OTHER DOCUMENTS PROVIDED BY THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Description of Record	Date Provided	Comment[1]
Package Darayya incident on 15/02/15	07/08/15	1. Report of the commander of the unit working in Darayya on the date of the incident when eight patients were admitted to the Martyr Youssef Al-Adhma Hospital in Damascus (H601) 2. List of patients admitted to H601 3. AChE results 4. One CD containing images from Google Earth detailing key locations related to the incident
Report from H601 about missing medical records	10/08/15	Report on why some medical records were missing. List of patients admitted to H601
SOP-6322-06	12/08/15	Working method: Calibration of the activity of the AChE enzyme in whole blood following the colour saturation method. From the Scientific Studies and Research Centre (6000)
SOP-6322-07	12/08/15	Working method: Calibration of UV-VIS. From the Scientific Studies and Research Centre (6000)
Calibration of efficiency of the AChE enzyme in the blood	12/08/15	Working method: Calibration of efficiency of the AChE enzyme in the blood. From the Scientific Studies and Research Centre (6000)
Package of scientific articles	12/08/15	Five scientific articles related to the analysis of the AChE enzyme level (in English)
Package related to incident in Nubel and Al-Zahraa 08/01/15	12/08/15	1. Medical report from Al-Zahraa hospital 2. One CD containing images from Google Earth detailing key locations related to the incident 3. One CD containing video footage 4. IDs for a number of casualties 5. Complaint about the incident registered at the police station of Nubel
Report from H601	13/08/15	Report explaining the reason why several soldiers affected by toxic gas have no medical records
Blood AChE activity in Syrian soldiers	13/08/15	Report from research centre on results of blood AChE activity in Syrian soldiers 2013–2015
Incident in Al-Maliha on 16/04/14	13/08/15	1. Report of the unit commander 2. AChE results 3. One CD containing images from Google Earth detailing key locations related to the incident

[1] This table also includes all documents received from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic during the second deployment of the FFM.

Description of Record	Date Provided	Comment[1]
Package related to incident Al-Maliha and Al-Kabbas	13/08/15	1. Report from Al-Radhi hospital related to the incidents 2. Report of the unit commander 3. Three CDs with images from Google Earth detailing key locations related to the incidents 4. Report of the unit commander
Medical records – Darayya	07/08/15	Medical records of eight persons related to the incident in Darayya 15/02/15
Medical records – Al-Maliha and Al-Kabbas	10/08/15	Medical records of seven persons related to the incidents in Al-Maliha (08/07/14), Al-Maliha (11/07/14), and Al-Kabbas (10/09/14)
Medical records	13/08/15	Medical records of five persons related to incidents in Jober and/or Al-Maliha on 16/04/14 and Al-Maliha on 11/07/14
Medical records	13/08/15	Medical records of 30 persons
Photocopies of medical prescriptions from H601	14/08/15	Prescription of HI-6, atropine, hydrocortisone, nebulizer, dichloride
Photocopies of drug charts from H601	14/08/15	The charts contain the list of medications provided to the patients admitted in the chest and dermatology departments
List of medication for toxic injuries – H601	14/08/15	List of emergency medication for poisoning cases Pralidoxime, HI-6 dichloride, Anti HF (gel) calcium gluconate, edetate disodium ampules, diphenhydramine, Thiamine
AChE results on 11/08/15 – updated	14/08/15	Report from the Scientific Studies and Research Centre, dated 11/08/15 and not signed
Receipt of 58 samples returned to H601	14/08/15	Receipt of 58 blood samples returned to H601 from the Scientific Studies and Research Centre
Pack of colour images of weapons	14/08/15	
Video footage and printouts of screenshots	13/08/15	Eight DVDs and 16 pages (screenshots from YouTube pages)
Calibration certificate of a liquid glass thermometer	28/01/16	Calibration certificate No. C-0010 (in English) Liquid glass thermometer (Object identification No. 3124-42) Date of calibration 18/02/14 – Report dated 03/03/14
Calibration certificate of a liquid glass thermometer	28/01/16	Calibration certificate No. C-0130 (in English) Liquid glass thermometer (Object identification No. 6322-42) Date of calibration: 16/08/15 – Report dated 17/08/15
Request from H601 for AChE analysis and response from the Scientific Studies and Research Centre with results	28/01/16	1. Letter from H601, dated 16/02/15, with request of analysis of six blood samples of three casualties (blood drawn on 15/02/15) 2. Response from the Scientific Studies and Research Centre, dated 21/02/15, with report of AChE results (dated 19/02/15)

Description of Record	Date Provided	Comment[1]
Request from H601 for AChE analysis and response from the Scientific Studies and Research Centre with results	28/01/16	1. Letter from H601, dated 23/02/15, with request of analysis of 12 blood samples of six casualties (blood drawn on 23/02/15) 2. Response from Scientific Studies and Research Centre, dated 26/02/15 with report of AChE results (dated 24/02/15)
Copy of NV69	28/01/16	NV in English containing the following documents: 1. Calibration certificate No. C-0130 of liquid glass thermometer (Object identification No. 6322-42) 2. Verification certificate No. V-0040 of a precision micropipette (Serial No. 4471368 – Object identification No. 6322-31) – Date of verification 19/08/15 3. Verification certificate No. V-0041 of a precision micropipette (Serial No. 4518838 – Object identification No. 6322-32) – Date of verification 19/08/15 4. Verification certificate No. V-0042 of a precision micropipette (Serial No. 154827 – Object identification No. 6322-33) – date of verification 19/08/15 5. Verification certificate No. V-0043 of a precision micropipette (Serial No. 4100415 – Object identification No. 6322-34) – Date of verification 19/08/15 6. Verification certificate No. V-0044 of a precision micropipette (Serial No. 4239498 – Object identification No. 6322-35) – Date of verification 19/08/15 7. Verification certificate No. V-0045 of a precision micropipette (Serial No. 4286739 – Object identification No. 6322-36) – Date of verification 19/08/15 8. Verification certificate No. V-0046 of a precision micropipette (Serial No. 107610A – Object identification No. 6322-41) – Date of verification 19/08/15

Description of Record	Date Provided	Comment[1]
AChE worksheet	30/01/16	AChE results: 1. Summary of AChE results of six casualties. Blood samples drawn on 15/02/15, 18/02/15, and 23/02/15 2. Report dated 24/02/15 (12 samples) – Results are presented in the form of "Mean value ± SD". A more detailed report with the same results (dated 23 and 24/02/15) presents the values of the three repetitions. 3. Report dated 19/02/15 (11 samples) – Results are presented in the form of "Mean value ± SD". Two more detailed reports with the same results (dated respectively 16 and 17/02/15 and 18 and 19/02/15) present the values of the three repetitions.